




		Context of the British sector of the Western Front	Conditions requiring treatment on the Western Front
<p>Paper 1</p> <p>The British Sector of the Western Front, 1914 – 1918.</p> 	<p><b>The Ypres Salient:</b> Germans had the advantage with being on the higher ground. Tunnelling and mines were used by the British at Hill 60. First Battle of Ypres - 1914. Second Battle of Ypres -1915. Third Battle of Ypres - 1917.</p>	<p><b>The Somme:</b> Battle of the Somme - July-November 1917. 1<sup>st</sup> day of battle, 60,000 casualties and 20,000 died. In total, 400,000 Allied casualties and this put pressure on medical services on the Western Front.</p>	<p><b>Ill health: Trench fever:</b> caused by body lice and included flu-like symptoms including high temperature. <b>Treatment:</b> Passing electric current through infected area was effective. <b>Prevention:</b> Clothes disinfected and delousing stations were set up. Affected 0.5 million. <b>Trench foot:</b> caused by soldiers standing in mud/waterlogged trenches. <b>Treatment:</b> soldiers advised to keep clean but worst cases, amputation. <b>Prevention:</b> Changing socks + keeping feet dry and rubbing whale oil into feet. Affected 20,000 in winter of 1914-1915. <b>Shell-shock:</b> caused by stressful conditions of war and symptoms included tiredness, nightmares, headaches and uncontrollable shacking. <b>Treatment:</b> Not well understood. <b>Prevention:</b> rest and some received treatment in UK. Affected 80,000 and some were shot!</p> <p><b>Weapons of war: Rifles:</b> fired one at a time/loaded from cartridge case creating rapid fire. <b>Machine guns:</b> Fired 500 rounds a minutes. Pierced organs and fracture bones. <b>Artillery:</b> Bombardments were continuous, Artillery fire caused half of all casualties. <b>Shrapnel:</b> Caused maximum damage exploded mid-air above enemy. Killed/injured. <b>Chlorine Gas:</b> Led to death by suffocation. 1915, gas masks given to all British soldiers. <b>Phosgene Gas:</b> Faster acting than Chlorine but with similar effects. Could kill within 2 days. <b>Mustard Gas:</b> Odourless gas, worked in 12 hours. Caused blisters, burn the skin easily.</p>
	<p><b>Arras:</b> Battle of Arras - 1917. Before the battle, Allied soldiers dug tunnels below Arras. Tunnels led to rooms and included an underground hospital.</p>	<p><b>Cambrai:</b> Battle of Cambrai -1917. 450 tanks used to advance on the German position, however, plan did not work because there was not enough infantry to support.</p>	<p><b>Ill health: Trench fever:</b> caused by body lice and included flu-like symptoms including high temperature. <b>Treatment:</b> Passing electric current through infected area was effective. <b>Prevention:</b> Clothes disinfected and delousing stations were set up. Affected 0.5 million. <b>Trench foot:</b> caused by soldiers standing in mud/waterlogged trenches. <b>Treatment:</b> soldiers advised to keep clean but worst cases, amputation. <b>Prevention:</b> Changing socks + keeping feet dry and rubbing whale oil into feet. Affected 20,000 in winter of 1914-1915. <b>Shell-shock:</b> caused by stressful conditions of war and symptoms included tiredness, nightmares, headaches and uncontrollable shacking. <b>Treatment:</b> Not well understood. <b>Prevention:</b> rest and some received treatment in UK. Affected 80,000 and some were shot!</p> <p><b>Weapons of war: Rifles:</b> fired one at a time/loaded from cartridge case creating rapid fire. <b>Machine guns:</b> Fired 500 rounds a minutes. Pierced organs and fracture bones. <b>Artillery:</b> Bombardments were continuous, Artillery fire caused half of all casualties. <b>Shrapnel:</b> Caused maximum damage exploded mid-air above enemy. Killed/injured. <b>Chlorine Gas:</b> Led to death by suffocation. 1915, gas masks given to all British soldiers. <b>Phosgene Gas:</b> Faster acting than Chlorine but with similar effects. Could kill within 2 days. <b>Mustard Gas:</b> Odourless gas, worked in 12 hours. Caused blisters, burn the skin easily.</p>
	<p><b>Impact of terrain on helping the wounded:</b> Difficult to move around, + night, communication was difficult, collecting wounded from No Man's Land was dangerous. Stretcher bearers found it difficult to move around corners and transport of the wounded was difficult because of this.</p>		<p><b>Ill health: Trench fever:</b> caused by body lice and included flu-like symptoms including high temperature. <b>Treatment:</b> Passing electric current through infected area was effective. <b>Prevention:</b> Clothes disinfected and delousing stations were set up. Affected 0.5 million. <b>Trench foot:</b> caused by soldiers standing in mud/waterlogged trenches. <b>Treatment:</b> soldiers advised to keep clean but worst cases, amputation. <b>Prevention:</b> Changing socks + keeping feet dry and rubbing whale oil into feet. Affected 20,000 in winter of 1914-1915. <b>Shell-shock:</b> caused by stressful conditions of war and symptoms included tiredness, nightmares, headaches and uncontrollable shacking. <b>Treatment:</b> Not well understood. <b>Prevention:</b> rest and some received treatment in UK. Affected 80,000 and some were shot!</p> <p><b>Weapons of war: Rifles:</b> fired one at a time/loaded from cartridge case creating rapid fire. <b>Machine guns:</b> Fired 500 rounds a minutes. Pierced organs and fracture bones. <b>Artillery:</b> Bombardments were continuous, Artillery fire caused half of all casualties. <b>Shrapnel:</b> Caused maximum damage exploded mid-air above enemy. Killed/injured. <b>Chlorine Gas:</b> Led to death by suffocation. 1915, gas masks given to all British soldiers. <b>Phosgene Gas:</b> Faster acting than Chlorine but with similar effects. Could kill within 2 days. <b>Mustard Gas:</b> Odourless gas, worked in 12 hours. Caused blisters, burn the skin easily.</p>
	<p><b>Key words</b></p>		<p><b>Key words</b></p>
	<p><b>No Man's Land:</b> Land between Allied and German trenches in WW1.  <b>Trenches:</b> Long, narrow ditches dug during the First World War.  <b>Ypres Salient:</b> Area around Ypres where many battles took place in WW1.</p>		<p><b>Gangrene:</b> When a body decomposes due to a loss of bloody supply.  <b>Shrapnel:</b> A hollow shell filled with steel balls or lead, with gunpowder and a time fuse.</p> 
	<p><b>Helping the wounded on the Western Front</b></p>		<p><b>The impact of the Western Front on Medicine</b></p>
	<p><b>Evacuation route:</b> Survival depended on speed of treatment. Care improved as war progressed. 1914 – 0 motor ambulances but by 1915, it was 250. Ambulance trains were introduced, as well as, ambulance barges used along River Somme.  <b>Stretcher bearers:</b> Collect wounded, 16 in each battalion + 4 for each stretcher.  <b>Regimental Aid Post:</b> Always close to the front line and staffed by a Medical officer selected those who were lightly wounded/needed more attention.  <b>Field Ambulance and Dressing Station:</b> Emergency treatment for wounded.  <b>Casualty Clearing Station:</b> Large, well equipped station, 10 miles from trenches.  <b>Base Hospitals:</b> X-ray, operating theatre and areas to deal with gas poisoning.  <b>Underground hospital at Arras:</b> Running water, 700 beds and operating theatre.  <b>RAMC:</b> Involved medical officers and learnt about wounds never seen before.  <b>FANY:</b> Volunteer nurses, who helped the wounded and also drove ambulances.</p>		<p><b>The Thomas Splint:</b> Stopped joints moving and increased survival rates from 20 to 82%. Reduced infection from compound fractures.  <b>X-rays:</b> Developed in 1895, X-rays used to diagnose issues before operations. But there were some problems: X-ray could not detect all problems, were fragile and overheat.  <b>Mobile X-rays:</b> 6 operated on the front line, used to locate shrapnel and bullet wounds. Transported around in a truck and enabled soldiers to be treated more quickly.  <b>Blood Transfusions:</b> Blood loss = major problem. Blood transfusions used at Base Hospitals by a syringe and tube to transfer blood from patient to donor. Extended to CCS from 1917.  <b>Blood bank at Cambrai:</b> Adding Sodium Citrate allowed blood to be stored for longer. Blood was stored in glass bottles at a blood bank and used to treat wounded soldiers.  <b>Brain surgery:</b> Magnets used to remove metal fragments from the brain. Local anaesthetic.  <b>Plastic surgery:</b> Harold Gillies developed new techniques, skin drafts developed for grafts.</p>
	<p><b>Key words</b></p>		<p><b>Key words</b></p>
	<p><b>FANY:</b> First Aid Nursing Yeomanry. Founded in 1907 by a soldier who hoped they would be a nursing cavalry to help the wounded in battle.  <b>RAMC:</b> Royal Army Medical Corps. This organisation organised and provided medical care. It consisted of all ranks from doctors to ambulance drivers and stretcher bearers.  <b>Triage:</b> A system of splitting the wounded into groups according to who needed the most urgent attention.</p> 		<p><b>Compound Fracture:</b> Broken bones pierces the skin + increases risk of infection in wound.  <b>Debridement:</b> Cutting away of dead and infected tissue from around the wound.  <b>Gas Gangrene:</b> Infection that produced gas in gangrenous wounds.  <b>Mobile X-ray unit:</b> Portable X-ray unit that could be moved around the Western Front.  <b>Radiology department:</b> Hospital department where X-rays are carried out.  <b>Blood transfusions:</b> Blood taken from a healthy person and given to another person.  <b>General anaesthetic:</b> Putting a patient to sleep during an operation.  <b>Local anaesthetic:</b> Area being operated on is numbed to prevent pain + patient awake.</p>

